

From enquiries made it is apparently very uncommon to find white wolves in this Province.

The following questions naturally present themselves :—are such wolves albinos, do some of them turn white in winter or are they of a different type and distinct from the ordinary wolf? As regards the first this skin was brought in with the head which had not at the time been skinned, the eyes did not appear to be pink and moreover there are black eyebrows over them; the possibility of its being an albino is therefore precluded. The fact that the skin of another wolf of the ordinary grey type, size and colour was brought in on the same day, combined with the fact that white wolves are so rarely seen in these parts conduces to the belief that the ordinary type does not change to white during the winter. For want of further information on the subject therefore one is led provisionally to the conclusion that the large white wolf whose skin I now have is of a distinct and unusual type to that ordinarily found in Baluchistan. I should be grateful for any further information on the characteristics and distribution of such wolves.

24, LYTTON ROAD,  
QUETTA,  
January 25, 1942.

R. K. M. BATTYE,  
Captain.

[The wolves which inhabit India and Baluchistan are racial forms of the European Wolf. Within this area two races are recognised: the Woolly Wolf, *Canis lupus chanco*, recorded, so far, from the Western Himalayas, Kashmir and Chitral, and the Small Indian Wolf, *Canis lupus pallipes*, distinguished by its smaller size and its shorter and less luxuriant winter coat. This race occurs in Baluchistan and the Peninsula of India. Intergradation between the two races, makes distinction difficult, particularly in an individual inhabiting the border lines of the two races. In the winter coat of the woolly race, the dorsal surface and the tail are, to a greater or less extent, variegated with black and white or black and buff contour hairs which are especially profuse on the back forming a definite 'saddle'. In the peninsular race the dorsal 'saddle' of the winter coat is sandy fawn and heavily blackened by the black tips of the contour hairs; but the fawn may bleach to grey, the black be much reduced in extent and intensity. We have examined the skin sent to us by Capt. Battye which appears to belong to the smaller race. Its pelage is exceptionally pale, showing a tendency to partial albinism. Eds.]

### III.—EXTENSION OF RANGE OF THE MARBLED POLE CAT (*VORMELA PEREGUSNA* GÜLD.).

I should be very grateful if you could classify the animal depicted in the 2 enclosed photographs and let me know what it is.

We found it about 3 weeks ago in one garden where presumably it had been deserted by its mother. Its main colouring and distinguishing marks are:—

1. Underneath of neck and all down its stomach—jet black and very velvety fur.
2. Remainder of body including head and tail—black with cloudy yellow bars.
3. Very pointed upright ears.
4. Small black eyes.
5. Pads and claws rather like a miniature bear. The claws are definitely not sheathed like the cat tribe's.

It is an excellent climber, is now very tame, answers to its name and runs all over the garden.

I should say its age is probably now 6 or 7 weeks old, as its teeth are well through.

It runs with a curious arching of the back motion.

Personally I should say it is either a Marten or Weasel. The local Pathans have a word for it '*Dalagai*' and say it is fairly common and lives on rats and snakes.

Parachinar where the animal was found is 6000 feet up and has a high range behind it which runs up to over 15,000 feet (the Safed Koh).

KURRAM MILITIA,

PARACHINAR, N.-W.F.P.

May 27, 1942.

R. S. JOHNSON,

Major.

[From the photographs submitted, the animal is undoubtedly a Marbled or Tiger Pole Cat (*Vormela peregusna*). A local race (*alpherakyi*) is recorded as occurring in within our limits in Afghanistan and Baluchistan. The present record from the N.-W. F. P. is an extension of its recorded range. Eds.]

#### IV.—NOTES ON THE PANGOLIN (*MANIS CRASSICAUDATA*<sup>1</sup>).

(With two text figures and a plate).

A female specimen of the Indian Pangolin, *Manis crassicaudata*, caught at Mettur was recently (October 1941) received at the Madras Government Museum. It came to us in a very weak condition, so that it survived in captivity only for a fortnight. The animal used to produce the characteristic hissing noise. On the first day when termites were put in the cage, it ate even the clay.

<sup>1</sup> From the pleistocene deposits of the Karnul caves, fossil relics of a large species of *Manis*, *M. gigantea*, which should have been 4 ft. 6 in. in length, have been described by Foote and Lydekker,